

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing replaces all prior listing of the claims in this case.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of portably handling entertainment media comprising:

storing entertainment media in a memory of a portable digital storage module;
encoding the portable digital storage module with access instructions corresponding
to a predefined number of authorized playings of the entertainment media;
retrieving the entertainment media from the memory of the portable digital storage
module with a digital format player device in accordance with a permission
granted by the access instructions.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step further comprises transferring a copy of the entertainment media from a purchase center into the memory of the portable digital storage module.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the storing step further comprises downloading the entertainment media from a remotely located database.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 and further comprising repeating the storing step to store two or more entertainment media into the memory of the portable digital storage module.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrieving step further comprises the player device including at least one of a notebook computer, a personal movie player, and a seatback-mounted movie viewer.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step is characterized by the portable digital storage module having a communication interface and a power supply.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the retrieving step is characterized by a controller logic for executing the access instructions stored in the memory.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step and the retrieving step are performed in a broadband frequency format.

9. (Currently amended) A portable digital storage module comprising:

~~an~~ a pocket enclosure that is removably connectable to a digital format player device in a data transfer relationship;

a memory in the enclosure configured for storing and retrieving data; and

a controller in the enclosure configured for executing instructions stored in the memory for granting the digital format player device access to data stored in the memory according to a predefined number of authorized playings.

10. (Previously presented) The module of claim 9 comprising a communication interface subject to the controller in transferring data from the memory to the digital format player device.

11. (Previously presented) The module of claim 9 wherein the memory is characterized as an atomic resolution storage device comprising:

a field emitter fabricated by semiconductor microfabrication techniques capable of generating an electron beam current; and

a storage medium in proximity to the field emitter and having a storage area in one of a plurality of states to represent the information stored in the storage area.

12. (Original) The module of claim 11, wherein an effect is generated when the electron beam current bombards the storage area, wherein the magnitude of the effect depends upon the state of the storage area, and wherein the information stored in a storage area is read by measuring the magnitude of the effect.

13. (Previously presented) The module of claim 11, and further comprising:

a plurality of storage areas on the storage medium, each storage area in one of a plurality of states to represent information stored in the storage area; and

a microfabricated mover in the storage device to position different storage areas to be bombarded by the electron beam current.

14. (Previously presented) The module of claim 13, and further comprising:

a plurality of field emitters, each emitter fabricated by semiconductor

microfabrication techniques capable of generating an electron beam current, the

plurality of field emitters being spaced apart, with each emitter being responsible

for a number of storage areas on the storage medium; and

such that a plurality of the field emitters work in parallel to increase the data rate of

the storage device.

15. (Previously presented) The module of claim 9 wherein the memory is configured

for subsequently storing data where different data was previously stored.

16. (Currently amended) A portable digital media handling system comprising a

purchase system configured to receivingly engage a portable digital storage module in a data

transfer relationship, to operably store a user-selected entertainment media to the portable

digital storage module, and to store access instructions associated with a predefined number

of authorized playings of the user-selected entertainment media ~~to~~ via the portable digital

storage module in order to prevent unauthorized access to the entertainment media by a

digital format player device.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the digital format player

device is at least one of a notebook computer, a seatback mounted movie viewer, and a

personal portable playback device.

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the purchase system makes a copy of the user-selected entertainment media from a database of entertainment media and transfers the copy to the portable digital storage module via a point-of-purchase module.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrieving step is characterized by permission being granted to the digital format player device to access the entertainment media a finite number of times.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrieving step is characterized by permission being granted to the digital format player device to access the entertainment media for a finite period of time.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein at least a portion of a first entertainment media and at least a portion of a second entertainment media are stored in a common memory location.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step is characterized by storing the entertainment media to an atomic resolution storage device.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step is characterized by storing the entertainment media to a disc drive storage device.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the storing step is characterized by the entertainment media comprising audio data.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the storing step is characterized by the entertainment media comprising video data.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the encoding step is characterized by a predetermined association between a user-selected purchase price for the entertainment media and the corresponding access instructions.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrieving step is characterized by permission being granted only to one or more predetermined digital format player devices.

28. (Previously presented) The portable digital storage module of claim 9 wherein the memory and the controller are contained in a disc drive data storage device.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the database comprises a cable/satellite television network.

30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 18 wherein the point-of-purchase module comprises a cable/satellite television receiver.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the purchase system is characterized by the portable digital storage module comprising a disc drive data storage device.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising automatically deleting the entertainment media from the memory in relation to the permission expiring.

33. (Canceled)